

General Education Committee Minutes: 9/9/2021

Present: Victor Piercey (Director), Monica Frees (RSS), Mari Kermit-Canfield (FLITE), Katie Kalata (COB), Andrew Peterson (EIO), Rachel Foulk (CASE), Paul Zube (FNTFO), Angela Ryan (Academic Counselors), Michele Harvey (CET) and Kathryn Wolfer (Senate Liaison).

Absent: Peter Bradley (Interim Assessment Coordinator), and Leonard Johnson (Academic Affairs).

11 am – 12 noon, Online

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved unanimously

2. Introductions

3. Announcements

- Peter Bradley will serve as interim GE Assessment Coordinator
- FLC Information Sessions: Oct 5 (3 to 4) and Oct 6 (2 to 3) in FLITE 405
- Need someone from CHP on the committee, subcommittee needs: non-CASE reps on COMM, Natural Science, Quant Lit (2 positions), CET rep on PROB

4. Consent Agenda

- ECON 405, Self and Society

Approved unanimously

5. Proposals

- None

6. Discussion Items

- IB Diplomas

The proposal is for students with IB diplomas, we waive all gen ed except (a) 300 level ENGL course, and (b) collaboration, and (c) problem solving. In addition, we award some number of credits (at least 30). The total gen ed proposed to be waived adds up to 37 credits.

Questions:

1. Do we want to do this?
2. What number of credits should we propose we award?
3. Do you think we want to run a pilot first?

Presentation from City High:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vB5PumJpGN4IC5sK_xuQ3HeSUrE-Nq3nNubo_3u1VQI/edit?usp=sharing

About the IB Diplomas:

<https://www.ibo.org/programmes/diploma-programme/>

Questions from the UGEC were:

1. What are the actual courses like? Are they prepackaged online courses with a facilitator or are they instructor-led courses? Might we see some sample syllabi, and maybe have a chance to talk with a student? We would like to understand this program at the course level and be able to assess the quality of the courses.
2. Who is the accrediting body for the IB Diploma? What are their standards? How does the accrediting body assess those standards?
3. How has the IB Diploma program changed in response to the pandemic? Which changes, if any, are likely to persist?
4. How is the full diploma different from those that take a handful of IB courses?
5. Might students who complete the IB Diploma also have taken Ferris early-college or dual enrollment courses? How would that be impacted? Are any of the IB courses also dual enrollment courses at Ferris?
6. Has Ferris had any IB Diploma students? If so, what has been the experience that they have had?

Members of the committee pointed out that the IB Diploma program is rigorous and well-respected, and this is an opportunity to attract strong students to Ferris who may add minors or second majors.